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LETTER DATED 13 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TUNISIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a declaration made on 13 February 1991 by an authorized source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia.

I should be grateful if you would kindly have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed GHEZAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Text of a declaration by an authorized source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Tunisian Government was deeply disturbed and saddened to learn that hundreds of innocent Iraqi victims had perished as a result of an intensive aerial bombardment of a civilian shelter in a residential area of the Iraqi capital in the early hours of Wednesday, 13 February 1991.

On numerous occasions, Tunisia has emphasized its apprehensions concerning the continuation and escalation of the war, particularly after it became evident that Iraq's human resources and economic, scientific and cultural infrastructure was being targeted.

While strongly condemning this savage bombardment of civilians, which is incompatible with humanitarian values and international covenants, Tunisia expresses its solidarity with the fraternal Iraqi people in this severe ordeal and once again makes an urgent appeal to the conscience of the world to spare bloodshed, to put an end to the devastating war in the Gulf and to settle the dispute by peaceful means.

The Tunisian Government wishes to point out that this bombardment constitutes further evidence of the manner in which the Security Council resolutions on the Gulf, particularly resolution 678 (1990), are being flagrantly transcended and strongly urges this Council to assume its full responsibilities by imposing respect for the United Nations resolutions in order to preserve a minimum degree of credibility for the United Nations, in its capacity as the last resort for the maintenance of international peace and security.